



Presented Jan. 5, 2015

## **Town Council Report for December 2014 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:**

### *Highlighted Matters*

- The Department's new Park Naturalist, Mindy Murdock, has been selected in a competitive, peer-reviewed process to give an educational presentation (of her own design) to her professional associates at the National Association for Interpretation's Region 4 Annual Workshop (at Turkey Run State Park for 2015). Region-4 is comprised of several Great Lakes States and includes a multinational component with the province of Ontario. We are very excited Mindy has been granted this honor, a first for Zionsville's and Nature Center and our environmental programming efforts.
- In other "Naturalist News"... in addition to a more typical December programming load, the Park Naturalist offered our first ever "Winter-Break Daycamp". It is thought that this initial participant base may well grow into quite a traditional yearly winter activity for those in our community who are interested in the "natural side" of the park system.
- The quotes for the Lake and River Enhancement Project's 2015 summer bank stabilization are in. Based in part upon the recommendations from our DNR LARE Grant Coordinator, the Park Board has selected the least expensive Contractor for this rather specialized work (Flatland Resources). These Contractor's numbers were somewhat under the Engineer's earlier estimate for the project. Recall that this project is supplemented with a reimbursement grant that should assist with ~70% of the project's anticipated cost. It is anticipated the contract will be signed by the February Park Board meeting. The permitting paperwork preparation and submissions can then get underway this winter. It is likely the various State permitting agencies will not allow the project to commence until after fish spawning season is completed in midsummer.
- The Park Board selected the lowest quote for professional services for the assessment of the Town's Bridge over Starkey Avenue (quotes were solicited from the current Town Engineering Consultant and two other engineering firms). This upper surface of this bridge is the route upon which the Rail-Trail crosses above the vehicular traffic. This process intended to serve as an update on a 2007 assessment that had been done upon the same structure. It is intended the current study will document any changes from the 2007 condition and provide engineering recommendations (if such are needed) based upon any observed changes and the rate of such changes.
- As of their early January meeting, the Boone County Commissioners have indicated their support of the anticipated Pedestrian and Bicycling Trail Master planning grant application the Park Department is spearheading for the Town/Community. This is a very competitive process with probably only two of the 50%/50% reimbursements grants being awarded in 2015. The Zionsville Chamber of Commerce is considering a letter of support also.